

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00834 121511Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OPIC-03 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /034 W
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R 121026Z APR 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO AMEMBASSY MBABANE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5867
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 0834

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY
DEPARTMENT PASS OPIC AND USDOC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN, WZ
SUBJECT: BARITE MINING IN SWAZILAND

REF: (A) MBABANE 357 (NOTAL); (B) MBABANE 0832 (NOTAL)

1. PARA 4 OF REFTTEL NAMED JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIES AS THE SOUTH AFRICAN FIRM INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING MINING LEASE ON THE SUBJECT SWAZILAND BARITE OCCURRENCE (IN COMPETITION WITH WILLIAM JORDAN'S NEW COMPANY, DRILCHEM, PTY, LIMITED). JORDAN DISCUSSED THIS TOPIC RECENTLY WITH THE RRO, NOTING HE HAD LEARNED WHILE IN MBABANE IN EARLY APRIL THAT THE SF GROUP (FORMERLY REFERRED TO ONLY AS "THE SYNDICATE") IS REPORTEDLY JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT COMPANY, LTD. (JCI -- OR "JOHNNIES"). FURTHER, HE SAID THAT JCI IS BEING REPRESENTED IN THIS INSTANCE BY THE FOMER OWNER OF SWAZILAND BARYTES LTD, DAVID G. KLIPIN.

2. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF A COMPANY TITLED JOHANNESBURG CON-
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SOLIDATED INDUSTRIES. IF, HOWEVER, THE SOUTH AFRICAN FIRM BEHIND "THE SYNDICATE" IS IN FACT JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT, THE BARITE MINE WOULD BE IN GOOD HANDS. JCI IS ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S OLDEST, AND MOST HIGHLY REPUTABLE, MINING HOUSES. MINING EXPERIENCE DATES BACK MANY YEARS. YET, WITH KLIPINS RE-EMERGENCE ON THE SCENE, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE WHY THE GOS (AND THE SWAZI NATION'S ATTORNEY, AMCIT CHARLES LIPTON)

WOULD ADOPT POSITION OF HESITANCY IN THAT DIRECTION.

3. INDEED, WE WERE SURPRISED TO LEARN OF A KLIPIN/JCI ALLIANCE ON TWO COUNTS; (1) THAT KLIPIN WOULD HAVE THE COURAGE TO APPROACH GOS NOW IN ANY CAPACITY, AND (2) THAT JCI WOULD "LEAN" ON KLIPIN TO DO SO. GIVEN KLIPIN'S MODUS OPERANDI IN THE PAST, HE MAY BE OVER-REPRESENTING HIMSELF ONCE AGAIN. HE MAY HAVE ONLY NEBULOUS UNDERSTANDING WITH JCI -- A REPRESENTATION THAT MAY NOT INCLUDE FIRM COMMITMENT OF PARTICIPATION BY JCI AT THIS STAGE. WE WOULD EXPECT JCI TO PURSUE ITS OWN NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTLY IF A GENUINE INTEREST EXISTS. IN ANY EVENT, WE AGREE THAT JORDAN'S CURRENT POSITION APPEARS FAVORABLE. HE ASSURED THE RRO THAT HE IS MOVING AHEAD WITH FEASIBILITY STUDY AND THAT HE WILL KEEP THIS OFFICE AND AMEMBASSY MBABANE ADVISED OF PROGRESS.
KIRBY

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Message Attributes

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